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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Sabotage at the "Sŭrp i Chuk" Military Textile Factory in Gabrovo	DATE DISTR.	24 February 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 25X1 1. At 9:00 a.m. on 14 September 1951, a group of anti-Communists set fire to the warehouse of the "Sŭrp i Chuk" military textile factory in Gabrovo. This hour had been chosen for the sabotage because all of the workers would be at breakfast and the warehouse would be empty.
- 25X1 2. All except about one million leva (old currency) worth of the ten million leva inventory of shoes, clothing, and other supplies stored in the building were destroyed. The fire was eventually extinguished with the assistance of the Gabrovo and Sevlievo fire departments and through the efforts of the workers themselves.
- 25X1 3. The workers at the factory were not interrogated individually, but three or four warehouse employees were arrested and about 160 other employees who were considered unreliable were discharged 10 or 15 days later. A group of the "unreliables" were rehired about a week later when they had been found innocent. About half of those discharged had obtained other jobs in the meantime and could not be rehired. Those who had been arrested were released and it was declared that the fire had been caused by spontaneous combustion of the acetone used in preparing glue for the shoes.
4. The only other sabotage known to informant was the ruining of "many thousands" of pairs of Army shoes which one worker had accomplished by making the stiffening very thin.

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